

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 313885  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03  
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /060 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:HDUNLOP:LKC  
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES  
EUR/RPM:PCOLLINS  
EUR/RPM:WSHINN  
EUR/NE:KSHIRLEY  
OSD/ISA:MR. MCCAULIFFE  
-----311132Z 039871 /12

R 302301Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 313885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, AWACS, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN VIEWS ON AWACS

REF: BRUSSELS 12759 DTG 281514 DEC 76

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY REPORT REFTEL OF VIEWS OF SENIOR  
MFA OFFICIAL ON AWACS. WE AGREE THAT HIS VIEWS ARE NOT  
RPT NOT CONSISTENT WITH OFFICIAL BELGIAN POSITION AS EX-  
PRESSED BY MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS AT DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING,  
AND THAT THEY REFLECT (AS EMBASSY COMMENTS) A NEED FOR  
FURTHER EDUCATING HIM ON A NUMBER OF POINTS. OF THESE  
PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT IS FACT THAT MILITARY REQUIREMENT  
FOR AWACS HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY ESTABLISHED AND ENDORSED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 313885

BOTH BY MILITARY COMMITTEE AND BY MINISTERS AT DECEMBER  
DPC. FAR FROM BEING ONLY A US PROGRAM "DEVELOPED BY US  
TO MEET A NEED IT IDENTIFIED, WITH WHICH THE SMALLER NATIONS  
WERE ASKED TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES IN THE LAST STAGES ,"  
THIS IS A PROGRAM WHICH HAS BEEN EXHAUSTIVELY REVIEWED  
AND STUDIED AT THE DIRECTION OF MINISTERS. THE MILITARY

COMMITTEE HAS AGREED ON SIGNIFICANT AVIONICS ENHANCEMENTS FOR THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT . THERE IS SIMPLY NO AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE AWACS DEEP-LOOK, LOW-LEVEL AIR AND SEA DETECTION AND TRACKING CAPABILITY. WITHOUT AEW

ALLIANCE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AND CONSEQUENT ABILITY TO DETER ATTACK WILL BE SERIOUSLY DEGRADED IN THE 1980S. THIS IS THE REASON US AND OTHERS STRONGLY URGE ACQUISITION OF THE SYSTEM.

2. RE INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION, THESE POSSIBILITIES (WHICH ARE LIMITED FOR HALF-SHARE NATIONS LIKE BELGIUM) AND THE RATIONALE THEREFORE ARE SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL IN A COMPREHENSIVE NATO DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR THE DECEMBER DPC (SEE ANNEX IV TO PO/76/136), WHICH IS HELD BY GOB. (IF EMBASSY BRUSSELS DOES NOT HOLD THIS DOCUMENT , IT SHOULD CONSULT WITH USNATO.)

3. RE POSSIBLE UTILIZATION OF FRENCH/GE SNECMA CFM 56 ENGINE FOR AWACS,SELECTION OF THE ENGINE IS NOT YET FINAL. WE NOTE FROM APPENDIX 2 TO ANNEX IV OF PO/76/136 THAT WERE THE SNECMA CFM-56 ENGINE SELECTED, BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION WOULD BE RELATIVELY MINOR. FURTHERMORE, ITS COMPETITOR, THE PRATT-WHITNEY TF-33 ENGINE, IS CONSIDERABLY LESS EXPENSIVE AND THEREFORE WOULD APPEAR THE MORE LIKELY EVENTUAL CHOICE FOR AWACS.

ROBINSON  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 313885

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR DEFENSE, AWACS, WARNING SYSTEMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE313885  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** HDUNLOP:LKC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D770001-0578  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976122/aaaaabmq.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 BRUSSELS 12759  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BELGIAN VIEWS ON AWACS  
**TAGS:** MPOL, BE, NATO  
**To:** BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006